

AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

AND OF THE

**SANITARY INSPECTOR**

**FOR THE YEAR 1939.**

# Amphill Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of laying before you my ANNUAL REPORT on the state of Public Health and Sanitary Conditions prevailing in your area for the year 1939.

The Report is drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health's circular 1961 of February 16th, 1940.

## SECTION A. Statistics of the Area.

Area in Acres.....	1904
Population Census 1931.....	2157
Population 1939 (estimated Mid Year) .....	2511
Number of Inhabited Houses, at end of 1939.....	805
Rateable Value.....	£14,255
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.....	£52 10 0

## Social Conditions.

Amphill is a market town, head of a petty sessional division, and is centrally situated in the county, 45 miles from London, and 8 miles South of Bedford. The town stands on high ground, shielded on the North and East by hills and open to the South. Its position on a dry sandy soil renders it very healthy, while the scenery of the neighbourhood is picturesque. The town is lighted with gas from Luton and with electric light from the Bedford Corporation. Many of the inhabitants go to Luton daily and work in the hat trade. There is very little unemployment in the district and there is no evidence that unemployment has exercised any adverse influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

## Vital Statistics.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Live Births— Legitimate .....	33	13	20
Illegitimate.....	2	2	0

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population is 13·9.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Still Births— Legitimate .....	0	0	0
Illegitimate.....	0	0	0

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births is 0.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Deaths.....	32	11	21

giving a death rate of 12·7 per 1,000 of the resident population, but when this is multiplied by the comparability Factor, it is reduced to 8·7.

The corresponding figure for England and Wales is 12·1.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth :—

From sepsis.....	0
From other causes.....	0

Maternal Mortality for England and Wales:—

Puerperal Sepsis	—	·74	per 1,000 live and still births.
Other causes	—	2·08	„ „ „ „

Total ... 2·82

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births .....	23·8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	333·3

CAUSES OF DEATH—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Typhoid and Parat. Fever .....	0	0
Measles .....	0	0
Scarlet Fever.....	0	0
Whooping Cough.....	0	0
Diphtheria.....	0	0
Influenza .....	0	0
Encephalitis lethargica .....	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever .....	0	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .....	0	0
Other Tuberculosis Diseases .....	0	0
Syphilis .....	0	0
G.P.I. ....	0	0
Cancer .....	3	3
Diabetes .....	1	0
Cerebral Hæmorrhage.....	3	4
Heart Disease .....	1	5
Aneurysm .....	0	0
Other Circulatory Diseases.....	0	0
Bronchitis .....	0	0
Pneumonia .....	1	3
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	0	0
Peptic Ulcer .....	0	1
Diarrhœa (under 2 years).....	0	0
Appendicitis .....	1	0
Cirrhosis of Liver .....	0	0
Other Diseases of Liver .....	0	0
Other Digestive Diseases.....	1	0
Acute and Chronic Nephritis.....	0	0
Puerperal Sepsis .....	0	0
Other Puerperal Diseases .....	0	0
Congenital Debility and Prematurity .....	0	1
Senility .....	0	1
Suicide .....	0	0
Other Violence.....	0	1
Other defined Diseases .....	0	2
Causes ill-defined or unknown .....	1	0
	12	21

## SECTION B.

### General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

#### 1. (i) PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY:—

*Medical Officer of Health*—DR. W. K. PARBURY,  
M.R.C.S., Eng., L.R.C.P., Ldn.,  
D.P.H. Camb., D.M.R.E. Camb.

*Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor*—MR. THOS. A. HAWTIN,  
M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.,  
Certificate of the R.S.I.

#### 1. (ii) (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Pathological and Bacteriological specimens are carried out by Dr. Rutherford Tree at the Bedford County Hospital. No swabs were taken for Diphtheria.

#### 1. (ii) (b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES—

Infectious Diseases.

There is a Motor Ambulance kept at the Steppingley Isolation Hospital.

Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.

A Public Assistance Ambulance is kept at the Bedford Fire Station and is available for your district. The Fire Station can be communicated with by telephone. The Telephone Number is 2222.

I consider these Ambulance arrangements are quite satisfactory. There is an understanding among the neighbouring Authorities that their Ambulances would be available in a case of emergency.

#### (c) NURSING IN THE HOME—

General.

The Local Nursing Association is affiliated to the Bedfordshire Nursing Association. A Nurse is supplied by them who attends to Maternity cases and Minor Medical and Surgical cases. She does not attend any infectious cases.

Nurse Jarman is the Nurse employed.

No provision has been made for the treatment of Infectious Diseases in the patient's own home, but your Council have arranged with the Ampthill R.D.C. to take cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Typhoid Fever at the Steppingley Isolation Hospital

#### MIDWIVES—

There are two Midwives in the Area who have notified their intention of practising this year.

(d) CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES—

These are provided by the County Council:—

(e) HOSPITALS—

<i>Hospital.</i>	<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Purpose.</i>	<i>No. of Beds.</i>	<i>Medical Staff.</i>	<i>Management.</i>
Isolation Hospital	Steppingley	Infectious Diseases	20	1	L.A.
Small Pox	Bedford	Small Pox	—	1	Bedford
Sanatorium	Mogerhanger	Tuberculosis	84	—	Borough C.C.
Bedford County Hospital	Bcdford	General	105		Voluntary
		Medical	36		
		Surgical	36		
		Maternity	13		
		Children	20		
St. Peter's Hospital	Bcdford	General Medical and Surgical,			
		Maternity and Children's	104		
Public Assistance Institute	Amphill	Chronic Sick and Maternity	54		
Children's Home	Kempston	Children	45		

LEGISLATION IN FORCE—

Adoptive Acts.

Public Health Act, 1890, Parts i, ii, iii.

Public Health Act, 1925, Parts ii, iii, and iv (except Section 20).

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, Section i.

Bye-Laws and Regulations.

Prevention of Nuisances.

Removal of Refuse and Noxious Matter.

Public Sanitary Conveniences.

Cleansing of Footways.

Offensive Trades.

New Streets and Buildings.

Common Lodging Houses.

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

**SECTION C.**

**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

**Water.**

The town is supplied by a public main and all parts of the town have a pipe from which a good and wholesome supply of water can be obtained at a good pressure.

The water is derived from the Greensand and is of excellent quality. The pumping station is at Clophill, which is about 4 miles East of the town.

One Chemical Analysis was made during the year and four Bacteriological Analyses, one every three months. I enclose the report of the Chemical Analysis and the last Bacteriological Analysis taken in April, 1939 and January, 1940 respectively.

Report upon a sample of Water taken from Station Road, Ampthill, by Mr. R. W. Collison. The sample was received on the 19th April, 1939.

<i>Chemical Analysis.</i>						<i>Grains per Gallon.</i>
Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.0004
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.0014
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F.	...	...	...	...	...	0.032
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	...	0.022
Nitrites	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Chlorine	...	...	...	...	...	2.0
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	...	24.5
Hardness Total	...	...	...	...	...	16.0
Do. Permanent	...	...	...	...	...	6.0

The sample was clear but contained glittering particles and was free from smell. A microscopic examination revealed the presence of some organic debris and crystals of calcium sulphate.

### Opinion.

The water exhibits a little difference in composition from the last chemical analysis but is quite suitable for dietetic use.

*17th January, 1940.*

Report upon the Bacteriological examination of a sample of Water forwarded by Mr. R. W. Collison, The Waterworks, Clophill.

The sample was received on the 10th January, 1940, and was marked: Tap over sink at No. 63 Bedford Street, Ampthill.

Number of organisms per c.c. growing on gelatine at room temperature in 4 days (20° C.)	...	---
Liquefying organisms	...	---
Number of organisms per c.c. growing on agar at blood heat in 48 hours (37° C.)	...	---
Bacillus Coli	...	Absent from 100 c.c.

The sample was clear and free from smell.

This water is in satisfactory condition bacteriologically.

(Sgd.) J. KEAR COLWELL,  
CHEMICAL LABORATORY,  
TOWN HALL,  
ROSEBERY AVENUE,  
LONDON, E.C.1.

# Report of the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for the year 1939.

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### 1. (i) WATER.

The Waterworks Engineer and Manager reports that the following extension has been made:

Lyme Road ... 82 yards of 3 inch cast iron main.

#### 1. (ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewer has been extended with 55 yards of nine inch and 43 yards of six inch pipes in Lyme Road.

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Seven houses have closets on the conservancy system, but none of these is in the closely built portion of the town.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

#### TABULAR STATEMENT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

##### *Summary of Sanitary Defects found and remedied during the Year.*

Dwelling-houses with Defective Roofs and Chimney heads	13
Dwelling-houses with Defective Water Closets ... ..	8
Damp Premises ... ..	13
Defective Windows and Insufficient Ventilation ... ..	5
Dwelling-houses overcrowded ... ..	1
Insanitary Accumulations of Offensive Matter ... ..	3
Defective and Insanitary Drains ... ..	20
Defective Ashbins ... ..	7
Other Dilapidations ... ..	18
Number of informal notices issued ... ..	74
Total number of Inspections ... ..	233

#### SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Temperature and ventilation to the forty-five shops was satisfactory.

Fourteen shops employ assistants, and these have sufficient sanitary accommodation.



Sufficient sanitary conveniences are provided for offices and other workplaces, and the ventilation and cleanliness were satisfactory.

With regard to Circular 1600, dated May 1st, 1937, no action was found to be necessary.

#### ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

(1) (a) No Council Houses were found to be infested.

(b) No other houses were found to be infested.

(2) No disinfection was necessary.

The method employed, when required, is spraying with Zaldecide.

(3) To ensure that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses, the furniture etc., is inspected previously where there is any suspicion.

(4) No disinfection has been carried out.

(5) Supervision and education of tenants to prevent infestation is carried out by visits of inspection and advice.

### SECTION D.

#### HOUSING.

Number of New Houses erected during the year.

1. By the Local Authority	...	...	...	0
2. By other Local Authorities	...	...	...	1
3. By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	29

During the Year Plans have been received for:

28 Houses, 1 Bungalow, 5 additions to houses, 3 new drainage, 4 Private Garages, 1 additions to Factory, 1 Sports Pavilion, 1 Greenhouse, 1 Shop.



## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### (a) MILK SUPPLY.

There are two producers and three retailers. One producer has left the District.

The premises have periodically been inspected, and generally are satisfactory.

One Supplementary Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk has been issued.

#### (b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The slaughter-houses and butchers' shops have been inspected at intervals, and were generally satisfactory.

#### BAKEHOUSES, ETC.

The bakehouses and shops have been periodically inspected, and generally found to be satisfactory.

THOMAS A. HAWTIN,

*Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.*

### SCHOOLS.

There are two schools in your district which attend to the education of all the children in the town.

#### 1. THE BEDFORD ROAD SCHOOL.

Church of England.

Average number on roll, 175.

Average number of attendances, 152.

The sanitary conveniences are: for boys 2; for girls 2; for infants 2. They are on the water carriage system and connected with the public sewer.

#### 2. WOBURN ROAD SCHOOL.

This is a Methodist Day School.

Average number of scholars on the roll was 150.

Average number of attendances 134.

Sanitary conveniences: for boys 3; for girls and infants 5. They are on the water carriage system and connected to the public sewer.

## SECTION F.

### Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

The Steppingley Isolation Hospital receives cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Typhoid Fever from your District.

Number of Patients remaining in Hospital on January 1st, 1939:—

Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	0
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	0
Other cases ...	...	...	...	...	0

Admissions during the year:

Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	6
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	1
Other cases ...	...	...	...	...	0

Discharges during the year:

Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	4
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	1
Other cases ...	...	...	...	...	0

Deaths ... 0

Number of Patients remaining in Hospital on December 31st, 1939:—

Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	2
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	0

### SCARLET FEVER.

Six cases notified, all were treated at the Isolation Hospital and all recovered.

### DIPHTHERIA.

One case notified, which was treated at the Isolation Hospital and recovered.

### PNEUMONIA.

Two cases reported.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.**  
(Other than Tuberculosis).

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia
Total cases notified ... ..	6	1	2
Removed to Hospital ... ..	6	1	—
Total Deaths ... ..	0	0	4
Cases under 1 year ... ..	—	—	—
Deaths under 1 year ... ..	—	—	1
Cases 1 to 2 years ... ..	—	—	—
Deaths 1 to 2 years ... ..	—	—	—
Cases 2 to 3 years ... ..	1	—	—
Deaths 2 to 3 years ... ..	—	—	1
Cases 3 to 4 years ... ..	—	—	—
Deaths 3 to 4 years ... ..	—	—	—
Cases 4 to 5 years ... ..	2	—	—
Deaths 4 to 5 years ... ..	—	—	—
Cases 5 to 10 years ... ..	2	—	—
Deaths 5 to 10 years ... ..	—	—	—
Cases 10 to 15 years ... ..	1	—	—
Deaths 10 to 15 years ... ..	—	—	—
Cases 15 to 20 years ... ..	—	—	—
Deaths 15 to 20 years ... ..	—	—	—
Cases 20 to 35 years ... ..	2	1	—
Deaths 20 to 35 years ... ..	—	—	—
Cases 35 to 45 years ... ..	—	—	—
Deaths 35 to 45 years ... ..	—	—	1
Cases 45 to 65 years ... ..	—	—	1
Deaths 45 to 65 years ... ..	—	—	1
Cases 65 years and over ... ..	—	—	1
Deaths 65 years and over ... ..	—	—	—

**CANCER.**

Six deaths were registered. Three males and three females.

**MALES.**

Alimentary System. Two cases. Ages 79 and 59.  
Urinary System. One Case. Age 82.

**FEMALES.**

Alimentary System. Two cases. Ages 54 and 62.  
Child-bearing Organs. One case. Age 78.

**PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.**

No action was required under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

### Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

No action was required to be taken under these Acts.

*New Cases.*

*Deaths.*

<i>Age Period.</i>	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year to 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 years to 10 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 years to 15 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 years to 20 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 years to 25 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 years to 35 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 years to 45 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 years to 55 years ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 years to 65 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and over ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

All Tuberculosis cases have been notified therefore the ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis Deaths to total Tuberculosis Deaths is nil.

In conclusion, I wish to thank your Clerk, Mr. Orme, and your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Hawtin, for their valuable assistance in the past year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

WALTER K. PARBURY,  
M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Ldn.,  
D.P.H. Camb., D.M.R.E. Camb.

*November, 1940.*